

Accomplishments of the Montana Office of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council Since 2005

- Over the past year Montana Council Members have been working on the Council's Sixth Power Plan. The plan is due out in draft form in May 2009.
 - The Council's energy plan strives to guide the region toward a low-cost, sustainable, electricity future. Because the future is uncertain, the plan includes strategies and action items to address possible future risks.
 - The Council seeks broad participation from the region in developing the plan through Council meetings, scientific advisory committees, consultations, public comment on issues and assumptions, and hearings on the draft plan.
 - Major components of the plan include: demand forecasts, fuel price assumptions, generating resources, efficiency opportunities, and analysis of the cost and risk of alternative strategies.
- In February of this year the Council adopted a revised Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. The process took over a year to complete. The Program is based on recommendations of the region's fish and wildlife managers and Indian tribes and reflects extensive public comments on the recommendations.
 - Montana Council Members worked to ensure that a balance was struck in the revised Program between upriver (Montana and Idaho) and downstream (Oregon and Washington) interests. Provisions were also put in place to help secure equity in funding for resident fish and wildlife in Montana.
 - Montana's desired operations for Libby and Hungry Horse Dams were included in the Program.
 - Montana Council Members supported important new language in the Program related to invasive species, toxics, and climate change.
 - Montana Council Members worked closely with Montana constituents, including the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to ensure their recommendations were included in the Program.

- Through the Council's Program, Montana Council Members have helped secure over \$43 million for Montana interests over the last four years. A significant portion of that money has gone to key land and conservation easements in Northwest Montana. The funds have also been used for habitat projects, research, and monitoring and evaluation projects largely to mitigate for the impacts of the construction, inundation, and operation of Libby and Hungry Horse Dams.
 - In addition to the above Montana Members helped negotiate a \$15 million dollar accord with the federal government for the purchase of important fish and wildlife habitat in Northwest Montana in 2010.
- Montana Council Members started the process of developing plans for the Blackfoot and Bitterroot subbasins for incorporation into the Council's Program. Money has also been directed in those areas for water transactions that help keep more water in rivers and streams. These areas in Montana have traditionally been neglected in terms of funding through the Council's Program.
- Montana holds two key leadership positions on the Council at this time. Bruce Measure is Vice-Chair of the Council. Rhonda Whiting has been Chair of the Fish and Wildlife Committee since 2005.
- Montana Council Members worked extensively on two key settlements between Montana and the federal government.
 - Montana Members were instrumental in securing a settlement regarding operations at Libby Dam associated with endangered white sturgeon. Montana Members focused on finding a way to help the endangered white sturgeon without resorting to methods (dam operations) that might harm other fish in the river and potentially property along the river as well.
 - For the first time ever Montana secured its desired operations at Libby and Hungry Horse Dams in a federal operating plan. The operations are part of the recently released NOAA Fisheries Biological Opinion dealing partly with how to operate the Federal Columbia River Power System. While this plan is still under litigation, Montana has never been this close to securing the operations at Libby and Hungry Horse Dams for the long term.
 - Libby and Hungry Horse operations have been fought out in a number of other regional arenas as well over the last four years. Every year Montana Members have devoted significant time and travel for this cause.

Northwest Power Planning Council:
**Meeting the Needs of People
Restoring our Natural Heritage**

From a perspective to the Council's power planning and fish and wildlife mitigation abilities, consider that, on average, 80 percent of the electricity generated in the Pacific Northwest comes from dams. Most of the dams are located in the Columbia River Basin, the Federal Columbia River Power Project, a series of 29 federal dams and one of the largest nuclear power plants, accounts for 10 percent of the total.

Various state and federal agencies are involved in power, fish and wildlife issues.

The Council is distinct in these ways:

Region's Balanced Voice - The Council is the only regional agency that offers the public a voice in fish, wildlife and power issues so that we can protect our natural heritage while meeting our future needs. We work to ensure that all voices are heard and all perspectives are considered.

Stability - One of the Council's most important responsibilities is as the public's watchdog — making sure that public money spent and public investment is protected.

Conservation - The Council annually directs the expenditure of more than \$125 million in federal revenues on projects to improve fish and wildlife survival in the Columbia Basin.

Independent Science, Better Decisions - The Council has led the way in using independent science to improve and discipline the efforts to protect and restore fish and wildlife. The Council is committed to using the available science to make the best decisions.

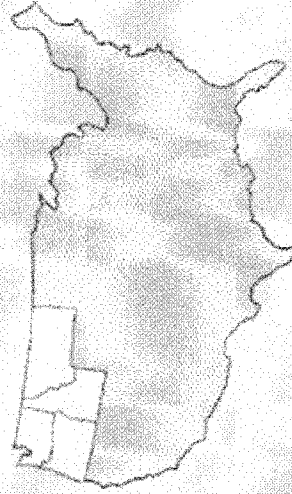
Planning - The Council provides information and data about electricity production, new technologies and interactions between hydropower and fish. The Council has a legal mandate to encourage energy conservation and efficiency in the Northwest and to develop a regional power plan.

Northwest Power Planning Council:

An honest broker for diverse interests.

Balancing our human needs with our natural heritage is a complex and often controversial task, a task that affects everyone who lives in the Pacific Northwest. To ensure regionwide involvement in decision-making, the governors of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington appointed the Council's eight members. The Council solicits the participation of all stakeholders in its work, including federal and state agencies and Indian tribes, local governments, environmental advocacy groups, industries, the scientific community and interested citizens.

In a sense, it is the Council's role to be an honest broker among a complex galaxy of legitimate interests representing fish, wildlife and energy, in an effort to develop scientifically credible policies and recommendations that best serve the broad public interest.



Northwest
Power Planning
Council

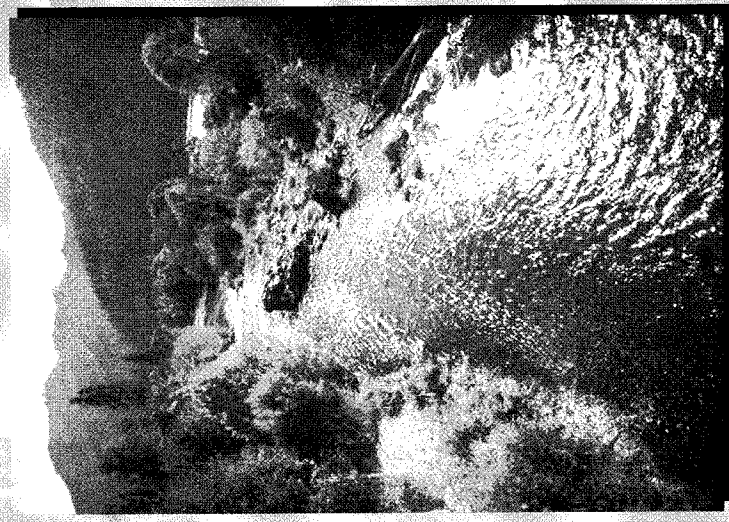
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Striking a balance between energy and the environment: A unique Northwest challenge.

The Pacific Northwest is known around the globe for its natural heritage of clean air and water, and abundant fish and wildlife. It has a rich history of native peoples and pioneers.

Since the late 1930s, abundant, low-cost electricity from the nation's most productive hydroelectric system has been a cornerstone of the Pacific Northwest economy.

But as is so often the case, the economic benefits derived from harnessing natural resources must be balanced with other values. And nowhere is that more apparent than in our efforts to protect and restore the Columbia River Basin's fish and wildlife while assuring a supply of clean, abundant electricity.

Fish and wildlife are a living link with our natural heritage and part of what makes us unique as a region and a people. Historically, annual runs of Columbia River Basin salmon and steelhead are believed to have numbered between 11 million and 16 million fish, but these declined to about one million by the 1990s. Many activities that pose a threat to the survival of our fish and wildlife also make important contributions to our quality of life. Urban development, recreation, logging, agriculture, navigation and the generation of hydroelectric power all helped the Pacific Northwest achieve the vital, dynamic economy it has today.

Balancing energy and the environment through the Northwest Power Act.

Because energy and the environment are so intertwined in the Pacific Northwest, it makes sense to address the challenge of balancing human needs and our natural heritage in a coordinated way. In 1980, Congress enacted the Northwest Power Act, which authorized the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington to form the Northwest Power Planning Council, the only regional planning agency of its kind in the nation.

The principal duties of the Council under the Act are to:

- 1)** develop a regional power plan to assure the Northwest an adequate, efficient, economical and reliable power supply;
- 2)** develop a fish and wildlife program as part of the power plan to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife affected by hydroelectric development in the Columbia River Basin, and make annual funding recommendations to the Bonneville Power Administration for projects to implement the program; and
- 3)** provide for broad public participation in these processes and inform the public about regional energy issues.

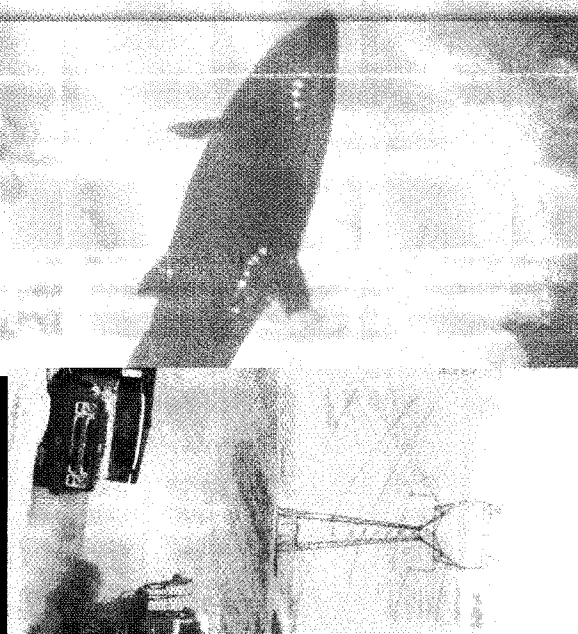




Exhibit 3

This exhibit is a booklet which can not be scanned, therefore only the front cover has been scanned to aid in your research. The original exhibits are on file at the Montana Historical Society and may be viewed there.

**Montana Historical Society
Archives**

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Pocket Guide

**Fast Facts About the
Columbia River Basin**

2007 Edition

Council Document 2007-12

Northwest Power and Conservation Council



**A Guide to
Major
Hydropower Dams
of the
Columbia River Basin**